

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

744 P Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

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August 24, 1983

ALL-COUNTY LETTER NO. 83-88

TO: ALL COUNTY WELFARE DIRECTORS
ALL LICENSED PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ADOPTION AGENCIES
ALL CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS
ALL DISTRICT ADOPTION OFFICES

SUBJECT: ORIGINAL DATE OF PLACEMENT

REFERENCE:

The purpose of this letter is to clarify the language in ACL 83-41 (May 5, 1983) which states:

"The child's 'original placement date' is the date on which the child is placed voluntarily or taken into custody and placed somewhere other than the home of the child's parent(s) or guardian(s)."

In nonvoluntary placements, the original placement date is the date on which the court orders removal and placement of the child; in most cases this will be the date of the detention hearing. Taking the child into temporary custody pursuant to WIC 305 or 306 does not constitute the "original placement date".

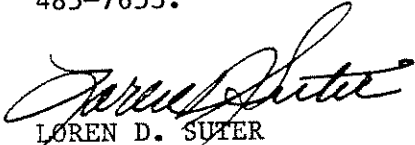
Federal regulations define "original placement date" as the "date of the child's most recent removal from his home and placement into foster care under the care and responsibility of the state agency. This definition is the point in time used in calculating all time periods related to the case review system" [45 CFR 1356.21(f)].

The Federal Government has indicated that compliance with this definition will be a major compliance review issue. California law allows for eligibility for foster care payment when a child is placed pursuant to a court order and responsibility for placement and care is with the county welfare department [WIC 11404(a)]. Responsibility for "placement and care" is defined among other things, as an agency having "taken the responsibility of supervising a child detained by the juvenile court..." [WIC 11400(i)(3)].

We would like to clarify that removal and placement date refers to the initial placement date of the current placement episode. For example, if a child taken into custody pursuant to WIC 305 was returned to the parent at the detention hearing pending the jurisdictional or dispositional phase and the court subsequently removed the child from the parent at the jurisdictional

or dispositional hearing, the removal action taken at a jurisdictional or dispositional hearing would be the "original placement date".

If you have any questions about this issue, please contact your Family and Children's Services program management consultant at (916) 445-7653 or ATSS 485-7653.



LOREN D. SUTER
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cc: CWDA